



# The “AGAPE” #29

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB

September 2, 2021

Proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ in Bridgeland since 1913

## THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

A “BLOG-LIKE” NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

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**Hello dear SMLC Family and friends!**

How have you been? I know that some of us are still out and about, taking days off...after all, we’re still in the (late) summer. To those still out there, we wish you safe travels and look forward to seeing you all again at church! My family and I had a great time enjoying vacations both in Alberta and British Columbia.

Today we commemorate Hanna, the mother of Samuel. Yesterday was September 1, a day when Christians think of Joshua, successor of Moses (we commemorate Moses on Sept 4). The feast of Joshua happens on September 1 in the Eastern Orthodox and the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar.

According to Joshua 1:1, God appointed Joshua to succeed Moses as leader of the Israelites along with giving him a blessing of invincibility during his lifetime. The first part of the book of Joshua covers the period when he led the conquest of Canaan.

The name Joshua has the same origin as “Jesus” and means “Yahweh is salvation”. He played an important role in the history of Israel when they conquered Canaan, being always depicted with Caleb carrying the grapes out of Canaan.

In The Divine Comedy Joshua's spirit appears to Dante in the Heaven of Mars, where he is grouped with the other "warriors of the faith."

And if you are a music lover, you will enjoy this: Baroque composer Georg Frederic Handel composed the *oratorio Joshua* in 1747. Franz Waxman composed an *oratorio Joshua* in 1959. Marc-Antoine Charpentier composed *Josue*, an oratorio for soloists, double chorus, double orchestra in 1680.

What can we highlight from the book of Joshua? Look at Joshua 24: 14, 15:

<sup>14</sup> “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup> And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”**


We live in a world surrounded by idols. Modern idols are closer to us, to our children and grandchildren than we can imagine. Make sure you have the same attitude as Joshua had: “as for me and my house (my family, my dear ones), we will serve the Lord”. The true Lord, the God Almighty, the Triune God, not the false idols that fight for our time, our energy, our money, our devotion and worship every single day. We are free to choose between following Christ or not. To come and have fellowship with others as Christ’s church or not. To walk with God as Joshua, Moses and so many others did or not. May your words echo Joshua’s: “But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Amen.

By the way, the Lutheran Church-Canada has come up with a project called “commemoration cards”. These Commemoration Cards were created by Julia Flor, LCC Communications Intern 2021. These cards are designed to highlight notable



events in the faith life of the saints, to help us remember the people of God from centuries past, that we might imitate their faith and good works according to our calling. For more resources on the Commemorations of the Church, visit our [Videos & Recorded Services Page](#) for Video Devotions on the

commemorations and minor festivals of the church calendar. Please find the commemoration card below. I have also included a coloring image for kids.



**Joshua**  
September 1

**Time Period** Conquest of Canaan

**Who was he?**  
The son of Nun, of the tribe of Ephraim, and a leader of the Israelites.

**Did you know?**

- He was appointed by God to succeed Moses as Israel's commander-in-chief.
- He led the Israelites across the Jordan River into the Promised Land and directed the capture of Jericho in seven days.
- He is remembered especially for his final address to the Israelites, in which he challenged them to serve God faithfully (Joshua 24:1-27).

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**1 – SUNDAY IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES:** As most restrictions have been lifted, there is no more limit to attendance. No need to call the office to register for services anymore. Congregational singing is allowed and encouraged. Communion practices remain the same as we have followed during the pandemic: you bring your cup and plate to church. You remain seated in your place. Pastor and assistant will come to you in the pews to serve you with bread and wine. You hold on to these elements until pastor returns to the altar and then invites all to

take the sacrament together, as a family. Face masks and social distancing are still strongly encouraged. There is still no offering plate passing around: you are invited to bring your offering and place it in the back of the church as you walk out. We will continue to sanitize the high touched surfaces between the services. Hymnals are not being used yet. Things may change soon, depending on the situation with the increasing numbers of Covid in our province in this “fourth wave”. We will let you know as soon as we need to change any practice here at SMLC. I will love to see you at church! And for those who are still not coming, we will continue to try to live-stream on Zoom each service, plus posting the recording on our website.

**2 – WE NEED YOUR INPUT:** Since Covid-19 hit us, we have started to record our worship services every single Sunday. You may visit them all on our website or YouTube. They are all posted there, thanks to the help of Warren Ohlhauser. Gabriel Dalmoro helped us also with some editing at the beginning. We would love to know how many of our members really watch



the recorded services. If there aren't many, we will consider cancelling these recordings, since we are now streaming live on Zoom. Please call our office, send me an email or speak to us about your interest in keeping recording the services. Thank you!

**3 – WORSHIP AT SENIOR HOMES:** Your pastor is now holding monthly worship services at two senior homes: Rocky Ridge Retirement Home (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) and Bethany Riverview (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday). This is a voluntary ministry in partnership with the Lutheran Hospital Ministries. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

**4 – BIBLE STUDY:** We are planning on resuming our online Bible studies on Zoom. You may still participate from the comfort of your home! Now it will be a little different since Elizabeth is not able to help out this time. We will start with one evening every month, the third Wednesday. So, the first one is planned for Sept 15<sup>th</sup>. Elizabeth will be leading another monthly Bible study, mostly with a movie watching and discussion afterwards. This will take place on the last Saturday of the month (the first one planned for Sept 25). We will be sending invitations for those events prior to the dates. **Online Youth Bible Study** will take place on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. I really want to encourage you, especially

if you haven't been to those studies. Come join us and be blessed by studying God's Word!

### **5 – WHAT IS PLANNED FOR THE NEXT DAYS?**

Sept 2 (Thurs): Board of elders' meeting on Zoom

Sept 5 (Sun): German worship service with Holy Communion @ 9:30 a.m. / English worship service with Holy Communion @ 11 a.m.

Sept 6 (Mon): Labour Day (office closed)

Sept 8 (Wed): Pastor leads worship service @ Rocky Ridge Retirement Home

Sept 10 (Fri): Youth campfire evening with devotion.

Sept 12 (Sun): German worship service @ 9:30 a.m./ English worship @ 11 a.m.

### **6 - NAMES OF UPCOMING SUNDAYS, CELEBRATIONS, FEASTS & FESTIVALS**

Sept 1 – Joshua

Sept 2 – Hanna

Sept 3 – Gregory the Great, Pastor

Sept 4 – Moses

Sept 5 – Zacharias and Elizabeth

Sept 5 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sept 12 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sept 14 – Holy Cross Day

### **7 – MEMORY BIBLE VERSE: Joshua 1:8**

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

#### **Auf Deutsch:**

Und laß dieses Buch des Gesetzes nicht von deinem Munde kommen, sondern betrachte es Tag und Nacht, auf daß du haltest und tust allerdinge nach dem, was darin geschrieben steht. Alsdann wird es dir gelingen in allem, was du tust, und wirst weise handeln können.

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## GEISTLICHE LIEDER AUF DEUTSCH

Wenn Sie diesen Newsletter am Computer lesen, können Sie hier unten klicken. Genießen Sie es!

**Wenn Friede mit Gott meine Seele durchdringt**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mog4511CI5o&t=21s>



*And now, our giggle for the week: jokes and puns*

Speaking of Joshua, What Bible character didn't have a father? Joshua, son of Nun.

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Thank you for taking your time to read my newsletter. May God's peace fill your days ahead. Have a blessed peaceful long weekend!

In His service,

***Rev. Markus Zeuch***

On September 2, 2021 Anno Domini

Ph: (403) 837-4600

Visit our website: [www.stmatthewlutheranalgary.com](http://www.stmatthewlutheranalgary.com)

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube!

### THE STAFF OF ST. MATTHEW

Organist/Pianist: Johnson Philip

Cantor: Dana Salter

Youth Leader: Elizabeth Schieman

Secretary: Andrea Sovary (403) 266-1458

Chairman: Peter Graumann (403) 275-2166

Head Elder: vacant

***Church Office hours are 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Monday-Thursday***